

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO JCS IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211122

FOLLOWING REPEAT NAIROBI 9044 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN LONDON
MOGADISCIO PARIS TOKYO DIA WASHDC AUG 25TH.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 9044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, MORG, KE, SO

SUBJECT: KENYAN PATROL BOATS IN DIFFICULTY; SEEK ASSISTANCE

REF: NAIROBI 8855

1. EARLY AUGUST 25 BRIGADIER PETER KAKENYI, CHIEF OF STAFF
KENYAN ARMY, TELEPHONED EMBASSY TO DISCUSS DIFFICULTIES
BEING ENCOUNTERED BY NEW KENYA NAVY PATROL BOATS CURRENTLY
EN ROUTE HERE FROM UK. KAKENYI SAID PATROL BOATS ARE NOW
OFF SOMALI COAST, CANNOT MAINTAIN THEIR SPEED DUE BAD WEATHER,
AND DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO REACH MOMBASA. HE NOTED THAT
BOATS COULD ASK TO BUNKER IN MOGADISCIO, BUT FOR OBVIOUS
REASONS GOK WISHES AVOID MAKING THAT REQUEST OF SOMALI
AUTHORITIES. HE OBSERVED THAT USS CAPODANNO HAD BEEN IN
MOMBASA UNTIL AUGUST 23, AND ASKED IF THAT SHIP MIGHT BE
IN POSITION TO HELP KENYAN PATROL BOATS WITH THEIR
FUEL PROBLEMS.

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2. KAKENYI WAS TOLD THAT USS CAPODANNO HAD EMBARKED ON 11-DAY CRUISE TO KARACHI, AND THAT IT WAS PROBABLY NOT CARRYING EXCESS FUEL. NONETHELESS, EMBOFF WHO SPOKE WITH KAKENYI UNDERTOOK TO EXPLORE HIS REQUEST FURTHER AND CALL BACK AUGUST 26.

3. EMBASSY WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED BY MINDEF OFFICER THAT TWO OF PATROL BOATS WERE TOGETHER AS OF 0900 AUGUST 25 AT LATITUDE 07 DEGREES 49 MINUTES NORTH AND LONGITUDE 50 DEGREES 12 MINUTES EAST. THEIR COURSE WAS 210 DEGREES AND SPEED EIGHT KNOTS. THIS PLACES THEM ABOUT 200 MILES NORTH OF MOGADISCIO AND APPROXIMATELY 50 MILES OFFSHORE. THE THIRD PATROL BOAT APPARENTLY HAS ENOUGH FUEL AND IS PROCEEDING INDEPENDENTLY TOWARD MOMBASA.

4. I DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT USS CAPODANNO BE ORDERED TO ALTER ITS SCHEDULE TO ATTEMPT ACCOMMODATE THIS REQUEST. IN ADDITION TO OBVIOUS, PERHAPS UNSURMOUNTABLE, LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED, THERE IS DANGER OF SOVIET REACTION TO US FRIGATE HEADING TOWARD SOMALI COAST. NONETHELESS, IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY GOK IF WE COULD IN SOME WAY BE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR PROBLEM. IT MAY BE THAT A US COMMERCIAL VESSEL OR OTHER FRIENDLY NATION (UK, FRANCE, GERMAN, JAPAN) VESSEL IS IN THE AREA AND IN A POSITION TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO HELP. I SUGGEST THIS MATTER BE GIVEN IMMEDIATE ATTENTION BY DEPARTMENT AND THAT EMBASSY BE INFORMED BY NIACT IMMEDIATE OF ANY SOLUTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS WE MIGHT PASS ALONG TO GOK FOR RESOLUTION THIS PROBLEM.
MARSHALL
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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